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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

13 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Steering Committee, NIE 11-5-55

SUBJECT : Revision of Paragraph 6 of Memorandum to Steering Committee, 11 January 1955.

Attached is the rewrite of Paragraph 6 of the Memorandum to the Steering Committee, dated 11 January 1955, as agreed upon at the meeting of the Steering Committee on 12 January 1955.

Chairman
Steering Committee

Attachment

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
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6. Whereas intelligence is available on the air defense equipment which the USSR now has or is likely to have in the near future, an assessment of Soviet capabilities to develop and operate highly complex and technical weapons systems requires intelligence on many aspects of Soviet air defense which the IAC agencies do not have. To make the overall estimate of Soviet air defense capabilities, therefore, analogical reasoning must be resorted to wherever relevant intelligence is lacking. In using US experience and planning factors as an analogy, it is imperative that we make appropriate allowances for differences in technique, approach, training, geography, etc. We therefore do not attempt to compare the Soviet air defense system with the US air defense system, but rather to use the available knowledge we have of US air defense system (1) as a substitute for intelligence that is lacking or inherently impossible to procure and (2) for the specific purpose of assessing what the Soviet air defense system as described could do.

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